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MINISTER DISCUSSES CONSTRUCTION  
OF SOVIET CONSUMER GOODS ENTERPRISES

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At a meeting of workers held on 29 October 1953, A. M. Kosygin, Minister of Consumer Goods Industry USSR, discussed construction of consumer goods enterprises as follows:

The Ministry of Consumer Goods Industry USSR must prepare for a sharp increase in capital construction and, in the next 2 or 3 years, put greater industrial capacity into use. At present, the Ministry of Consumer Goods Industry USSR is building, at an estimated cost of more than 20 billion rubles, 400 super-limit projects /projects costing above a certain amount to construct, which must be approved by the Council of Ministers USSR/. Already work in the amount of 9 billion rubles has been completed on these projects. All of these enterprises must go completely or partially into operation in the next 2 years. In addition, reconstruction and expansion of 800 enterprises is going on. These fall into the category of sub-limit /approved by ministry/ construction.

The most is not being made of capital investments in the consumer goods industry. This is because the majority of construction organizations are poorly staffed with workers and specialists and because labor at these construction projects is not organized efficiently. Many construction projects are not provided with estimates, blueprints, and specifications on time, nor are they regularly supplied with materials. The Administration of Capital Construction of the Ministry of Consumer Goods Industry USSR exercises only feeble control over fulfillment of the construction plan.

The Main Administration of the Cotton Industry of New Settlements, the Main Administration of the Sewing Industry, the Main Administration of the Wool Industry, the Main Administration of the Silk Industry, and the Main Administration of the Footwear Industry share a large responsibility for increasing industrial capacity. And yet these main administrations have thus far made no appreciable improvements in capital construction. The Main Administration of Construction of the Ministry of Consumer Goods Industry USSR is still not utilizing machinery well, work schedules at the construction sites are disrupted, labor is not organized efficiently, and the inferior quality of the work which is completed results in repairs which increase the cost of construction.

The work of the Ministry of Construction is also going badly. Work on the large cotton combines which the Ministry of Construction is building in Kherson, Engel's, Kamyshin, Barnaul, and Stalinabad is not progressing satisfactorily. The Ministry of Consumer Goods Industry USSR is supposed to install equipment and put the first phase of the combines in Kamyshin, Barnaul, and Kherson into operation in 1954.

The government is extending a large amount of aid to the consumer goods industry; this obligates the industry to eliminate as soon as possible major deficiencies in the work of construction and planning organizations.

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